

REMARKS

The present application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 7, 2008. Claims 1-13, 15, and 17 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 2, 6, 9, 12, and 13 are in independent form. Claims 1-13 have been amended purely as to matters of form and not to overcome any of the rejections presented in the Office Action. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action states that Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11-13, 15, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0019671 (*Metz*); and that Claims 3 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Metz* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,349,304 (*Boldt et al.*). Applicant submits that independent Claims 1, 2, 6, 9, 12, and 13, together with the claims dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is directed to a network device managing apparatus. The network device managing apparatus includes: (1) a storage unit adapted to store a device list indicating network devices found by a search, the device list being associated with identification information that identifies a data processing apparatus that requested the search; (2) a receiving unit adapted to receive a search request for a new search of network devices, and identification information of a data processing apparatus initiating the search request, from the data processing apparatus initiating the search request; (3) a searching unit adapted to perform a new search for network devices in response to the search request received by the receiving unit; (4) an obtaining unit adapted to obtain, from the storage unit, the stored device list associated with the identification information received by the receiving unit, the

obtained device list indicating a search result obtained in a search prior to the new search performed by the searching unit; (5) a comparing unit adapted to compare the search result provided by the searching unit with the device list obtained by the obtaining unit; (6) a forming unit adapted to specify any network devices found by the new search by the searching unit but not present in the device list obtained by the obtaining unit, and to form a new device list in which such specified network devices are emphasized among network devices found by the new search; and (7) a transmitting unit adapted to transmit the new device list formed by the forming unit to the data processing apparatus.

A notable feature of Claim 1 is “a storage unit adapted store a device list indicating network devices found by a search, the device list being associated with identification information that identifies a data processing apparatus that requested the search.” By virtue of this feature, a server may store a plurality of device lists, each associated with a different data processing apparatus that requested a search, and, when a new search is requested by a particular data processing apparatus, an updated device list that is based on a previous search by the particular data processing apparatus may be returned, for example.¹

Metz relates to network administration of printing devices. Apparently, *Metz* teaches that a network management tool can search a network and generate a main device list that includes all printing devices on the network, and that the main device list can be updated each time a new printing device is discovered (see paragraphs 32-33). However, *Metz* is silent

¹The example(s) presented herein are intended for illustrative purposes only. Any details presented in the illustrative example(s) should not be construed to be limitations on the claims.

regarding storing a device list in association with information that identifies a data processing apparatus that requested a particular search for printing devices.

The Office Action points to the memory 208 described in paragraph 25 of *Metz* as disclosing the claimed storage unit. However, the cited portion of *Metz* merely is understood to describe that, when a printing device is discovered on the network, information pertaining to the device is stored in a cache memory of the network management tool.

Nothing has been found in *Metz* that is believed to teach or suggest “a storage unit adapted store a device list indicating network devices found by a search, the device list being associated with identification information that identifies a data processing apparatus that requested the search,” as claimed in Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is not anticipated by *Metz*, and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Independent Claims 2, 6, 9, 12, and 13 include a feature similar to that discussed above, in which a device list resulting from a search is stored in association the information identifying a device that requested the search. Therefore, those claims also are believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above.

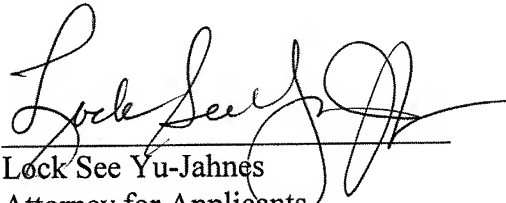
The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim also is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No petition to extend the time for response to the Office Action is deemed necessary for the this Amendment. If, however, such a petition is required to make this Amendment timely filed, then this paper should be considered such a petition and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite petition fee to Deposit Account 06-1205.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and an early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lock See Yu-Jahnes', written over a horizontal line.

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